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### Politics and the Bench.

There is nothing in the law which prohibits a Judge on the bench from indulging his political aspirations. Naturally it is impossible that there should be anything in the law which should abridge the liberty of the individual who administers the law. There is, however, good, wholesome public opinion which holds that the bench should abjure political ambition, that we should seek elsewhere than on the bench for the men to fill our great offices. There is no figure more baleful in our public life than the demagogue on the benchnone more dangerous or more hateful. It is the proneness to ascribe political ambition to the incumbent of the bench which explains the unjust and even cruel suspicion with which some of our court decisions are regarded. Were our Judges completely freed in the public mind from the taint of politics, as indeed they should be, a greater respect and a far greater weight would attach to their decisions, especially in cases which are affected with a distinct popu-

We think the growth and development of public opinion in this regard will presently make it impossible that political candidates shall be chosen from the bench. An unwritten law establishing the ineligibility of our Judges of all classes for popular preferment would be the most salutary manifestation of the public temperament that we can imagine.

#### Time the People Took a Hand.

It is a long time since the people of this State have had anything to do with their own government. They have been permitted to vote for certain candidates for office, but not to choose those candidates. When the people themselves choose a candidate they generally select a good one. In the past their choice has been mainly wise and creditable and has conduced to the common welfare. When have they chosen a Governor of the State? When has a Senator gone to Washington who represented the choice of the people of the State of New York? How many Representatives have sat in Congress in the last ten years who have been the real choice of the constituencies? Is the present Governor the choice of the people? Was his detestable predecessor the choice of the people?

Is there to-day in public office, high or low, in the State of New York a single man who occupies his place as the choice of the people? Not one!

The people generally incline to a man because of his character. They deem him to be upright, able and fearless and they call him to their service. This is an essential element of our theory of VELE's intervention in Santo Domingo, government. The people never called a man to their service because he had a avoid the consequences of adhering to bad character.

It is time that the people usurped their own powers-reasserted their faculty and their right of choice. The suffrage is a mockery otherwise.

The result would be that we should have honest men running for office, clean handed men, men uncorrupted by any of the sinister influences of dishonest corporations, men owned by nobody, men with an eye single to the public service and the public welfare. How do we know that we should have such men? Because we believe the instinct of the people in these matters to be infallible. Because the common sense and honesty of the American people constitute the very foundations of the Nation.

## How Will He Choose?

The Republican party in the State of New York, utterly humiliated and abased stands hat in hand awaiting the pleasure of the blackmailer and grafter who controls its destinies. What will it be? How base and sordid a choice will he dare to make? How does he read the signs of the times? Are there unsuspected depths of disgrace which his party yet must sound? Does he feel that into those depths he can safely plunge it without prejudice to his own skin? On the other hand, does he scent danger in the public unrest, danger in the unconcealed and universal horror of himself?

Will he out of prudence and compromise permit the present animated Sheep to repeat himself, or will be in very panic seek some decent man, some uncontaminated gentleman, and implore him to ignore the revolting hands that bear and that bestow the highest gifts of the people?

## Secretary Root in Spanish Speaking

America. With the three days visit to Monte video, which ended on August 13, Mr. Roor began a relatively difficult section of his task. Of a hearty welcome in Portuguese speaking America he was ed beforehand. It is partly due to the United States that the Brazilians still enjoy a republican form of government, for it was the interposition of American warships in the harbor of Rio de Janeiro that caused the collapse of The result was extremely interesting the plot formed by naval officers to and attractive. Mr. Carle, however, restore the imperial régime.

The United States has never had any of the works of LULLI, RAMEAU, BOIRLcontroversy nor any serious approach DIEU, ADAM, FLOZOW, and he jumped to friction with Brazil. Then, again, the | to the mistaken conclusion that the

Portuguese on both sides of the Atlantio songs exploited for his hearing were the real bequests of darkest Africa to the having had good grounds for centuries waiting Christian world. As a matter to view Spaniards with suspicion and dislike, have surveyed with complacency of fact, nearly every one of his scores was a vulgarized and dilated expression rather than regret the early detachment of Florida from Spain's American dominof well known French and Spanish comions and the recent liberation of Cuba positions. and simultaneous acquisition of Porto Rico and the Philippines. No sorrow or apprehension was expressed at Bahia and Rio de Janeiro when the Brazilians heard in 1847-48 of the victories

of American soldiers on Mexican soil.

With entire equanimity they learned of

the secession of the province of Panama

from the Colombian Confederation and

of the subsequent cession of the Canal

Zone to the United States. It is also to

be borne in mind that the Brazilians are

bound to us by the tie of self-interest.

Our country is the largest consumer of

their chief export staple, coffee, and also

buys large quantities of their hides and

rubber. When Brasilian coffee was placed by us upon our free list the re-

publican Government of Brazil seized

the opportunity to put a nearly equiva-

lent export duty on that product, and

thus materially increased its fiscal re-

sources. From every viewpoint, there-

fore, the Brazilians could be counted on

to give the American Secretary of State

It could not reasonably be expected

that the reception of Mr. Roor by Span-

ish-Americans would be equally warm,

and it might have been disconcertingly

chilly but for the extremely favorable

impression produced on the Spanish-

American mind by the speeches which

the Secretary of State made in Brazil,

and which, of course, were telegraphed

to Montevideo and Buenos Ayres. The

sentimental and intellectual ties of race,

language, traditions and institutions

long survive the severance of the po-

litical umbilical cord, as is proved by

the history of our own relations with

Spanish-Americans looked to us for aid

and comfort during their own struggle

to throw off the yoke of their mother

country, it was to be expected that,

after their independence was secured,

their deep seated and instinctive sym-

pathies should resume the old filial di-

rection. It was natural, therefore, and

not blameworthy, that Spanish-Ameri-

cans in Uruguay and Argentina should

have watched with chagrin rather than

pleasure the humiliation of Spain at the

hands of the great American republic,

It would have been base of them to

glory in their mother's downfall; nor is

t any reproach to them to have shared

the scepticism with reference to our

intentions in Cuba, which was widely

A well earned and marked reaction in

our favor took place, however, through-

out Spanish-America when our soldiers

enjoy the liberty that we had won for it.

That act of good faith and magnanimity

went far to extirpate in the Spanish-

American heast the rankling suspicion

caused by our treatment of Mexico; and

only slowly, sporadically and feebly was

doubt revived through our countenance

of the blockade of Venezuelan seaports.

through our willingness to profit by

the dismemberment of Colombia, and

through Mr. ROOSEVELT'S interposition

between Santo Domingo and her Eu-

ropean creditors. As a matter of fact,

it should be easy, in their present rela-

tively open frame of mind, to convince

Spanish-Americans that the construction

was impeding, is a matter of as urgent

moment to many of themselves as it is

to the United States, and that Mr. Roose-

correctly viewed, is really an attempt to

the precedent set by the late Secretary

Hay in the case of Venezuela. Moreover,

it would be better in the long run for

the credit of Spanish-American common-

wealths to adopt Mr. ROOSEVELT'S solu-

tion of the problem presented by the

non-payment of debts arising out of

contract than even to gain the assent of

the Hague Congress—they could never

gain it-to the Calvo doctrine which

forbids the enforcement by arms of con-

tractual obligations. These facts have

not been as yet, and some of them cannot

be, dwelt upon explicitly by Secretary

Roor, but that they are facts will be

position of the breadth, the unselfishness,

the generosity and the steadfastness of

Sources of "Congo Songs."

shout a recent article in this newspaper

and, incidentally, making reference to

fascinated by the quaint lullables and

crooning cradle chants, as indeed had

every one who heard them; and he

conceived the idea that they were simply

refined and chastened evolutions of the

ancient, barbaric music of the Congo.

But after long investigation, enlightened

as he was by profound and varied in-

formation and previous discovery, he

found that nine-teaths of the supposed

African melodies were simply rude

adaptations of the Spanish and French

songs which the slaves had heard in

Fifteen or twenty years ago GEORGE

W. CARLE, at that time one of the most

delightful and graceful historians of

Louisiana Creole life, published in the

Century Magazine two or three articles

on the alleged Congo songs. He gave

both the words and the musical score.

was not a musician. He knew nothing

Santo Domingo.

American republics.

ceanic canal, which Colombia

expressed, not only on the European

Continent but even in Great Britain.

proofs of esteem and confidence.

The case of GOTTSCHALK was very different. He was a musician, and more; not only a mastro at the piano, but a genius with initiative and divination. He spent years in New Orleans. No doubt he attended the Voudoo festivals and celebrations on "St. John's Eve" and heard the wild overtures and antiphonies of the frantic celebrants assez bled on the shores of Pontchartrain. Certainly his most attractive compositions in that line, the "Bamboula" and the "Callinda," would seem to indicate that he had caught the inspiration. But Louisiana musicians, speaking in all reverence for GOTTSCHALK, contend that his compositions, magnificent though they be, reproduce merely the Spanish and French melodies of a century or more ago, filtered through the dull, bewildered medium of the Congo consciousness. Competent authorities in New Orleans long ago declared that the very nature of the scale and measure of this music proved its European origin.

At all events, LAPCADIO HEARN SOcepted this conclusion, for after several years in Cincinnati and New Orleans devoted to research and inquiry he went to various West Indian islands in pursuit of the knowledge he had failed to accumulate in the United States. Moreover, the fact that he never issued any declaration in the connection would seem to prove that he had found no genuine Congo music worth the mention. This is the theory of the modern cognoscenti in Louisiana, who recognize in all the so-called negro chants and lullabies the under throb which marks the old Spanish and Provencal composi-Great Britain. Although, therefore, tions, such as "La Golondrira," "A la Media Noche," and so on. There can be no reasonable doubt that HEARN left New Orleans, and subsequently the West Indies, in despair of satisfying the interest which for so long had monopolized

his intellectual solicitudes. Unquestionably, HEARN was a genius. But he couldn't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, and when he realized that fact he had the grace to abandon the hopeless task. Incidentally, we note with interest the announcement of a forthcoming biography of HEARN by A lady who knew him for thirty years. Maybe we shall have some further and more brilliant light from that source. Any one who has known HEARN for thirty years must have begun the acquaintance in Cincinnati and concluded it in Japan; and we await the revelation with an anxiety which it were inadequate. to describe as feverish.

#### evacuated Cuba and left the island to Expert Opinion of City Bookkeeping. President JOHN HARSEN RHOADES of the Greenwich Savings Bank was quoted

yesterday as saying: " If any industrial or banking corporation em ployed the system of bookkeeping which is in use by the city of New York its credit would be rained in a short time and its business as well. Under it a layman is unable to get any idea of the outstanding debt of the city or the character of its various

ond issues, and fraud could flourish undstected." Of the truth of this statement there is not the slightest doubt. No corporation engaged in a commercial enterprise could conduct its operations successfully with its officers and managers uninformed as o its exact financial condition. Yet the city blunders along without a single official in possession of all the details of its

situation. The city's lax bookkeeping has hurt its credit, befogged its officers and deprived its tax payers of the clear and easily understood financial statements indispensable if they are to act intelligently on public

All good Democrats should possess their souls in atlence and trust the judgment of the Democratio arry in convention assembled to do the right sing at the right time.—Par McCarren.

That is what good Democrats have learned not to do. But the good Democrate meant by this political moralist are those who throw up their hats when a Democratio convention possesses its soul in patience while the bosses make up the slate and write

The growth and experience of the last ten years are breadened and matured the character and tatesmanship of Mr. BRTAN.—JOSEAE QUINCE.

In spite of the idolatrous tributes of driven home to the acute Spanish-Americonservatives like Mr. QUINCY, Mg. BRYAN can intellect through the impression of efuses to broaden and mature. He has sincerity wrought by the Secretary's declared with emphasis and gayly that he personality and by his convincing exis more radical than he was in 1898, when JOSIAH QUINCY took to the woods. A nomination by the radicals is Mr. BRYAN'S due; and the signs are that the conservaour fraternal policy toward the Latintives will thrust their nomination upon him and refuse to take no for an answer. But how could the unrepentant radical accept it with a straight face? An amusing collection of odds and ends and nondescripts and flot-We feel moved to say another wordsam and jetsam is the Democratic party. discussing the late LAFCADIO HEARN

Schoolbey Plagiarist Pools Teacher and Editor the Congo folk music of which he was in eager search for many years. In the course of the article it was asserted that Hearn, after all his researches in New O'leans, Martinique and various West Indian districts, reached the conclusion that the so-called "Congo songs" were not of African origin at all. He had been fossionated by the quaint lullables and encourage differs pupils and realous teachers by

printing their essays.

Judge of my surprise to-day when, in reading the paper at page 10 of the magazine tection, one of the prize winners entitled "Return of Columbus to America" appeared. The story is an old one. has appeared in several sonool reacers and in printed on pages 120 and 170 of a Monroe's freeder, which I have before me now: the bright boy who "composed" the pipce knew a good thing when he saw it, and did not change a word from beginning to end, so that the really excellent article purports to be the work of a boy of fourteen or so, whose

An explanation would be advisable, in view of the fact that the boy wrote it he class, and that his teacher has certified to the fact. ROBERT P. GREEK, Public School S.

When the Woodchuck Loses Weight. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUS-SIF: Woodchire not emaciated when they emerge from the hibernation. I have repeatedly watched them amerge and they are invariably fat. It is only after feeding on the winter grass that they lose their characteristic plumpness. Any naturalist fait. Bald, Me., August 12.

Jack's Vindication.

GUR STARERS. A Student of Various Types Passes Them

Impartially in Review. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If went to study the interesting species of starcers or "face readers," you ought to so to the parks. There you find them sitting on the benches, their keen eyes, like X-rays, penetrating the clothes and physicsnomy o object of such stares I cannot help feeling proud and elated. It reminds me so much of my soldier days in Germany, when the initing officer passed along the randomatically to

In Central Park and other places we metimes whole families of starers. Father mother and children sit in a row on the bench n as a pedestrian approaches all the de turn to that side, their bodies lean a little forward, their mouths are slightly opened, and the staring eyes are fixed on the victim with a breathless attention and never leave him until he disappears in the bushes. The best starer in the group is usually the smallest girl, if she happens to have large brown or gray eyes. Such a party is never composed of born and home bred Americans, and there is no harm whatever in the staring. I, for one, like to return in a friendly manner those attentive wistful looks, and I often nod to the children, whereupon they stare harder than ever. There is semetimes in the eyes of a child of the comman people; and of many animals when at rest, such a spontaneous, deep, earnest ex-pression that it appeals to me almost like a mystery of life.

Americans, as a rule, do not stare. They mind their own business, or observe people and things in an unobtrusive way. When caught in the act of looking at a person they quietly turn the eyes in another direction. But the exceptions, or the few Americans who do stare, are indeed a very disagree-

quietly turn the eyes in another direction. But the exceptions, or the few Americans who do stare, are indeed a very disagreeable lot. Their staring is generally emphasized by an air of self-complacency and of bullying superiority which is most annoying. It is these exceptions to which your correspondents no doubt refer, and from which many foreigners derive their opinion of the insolence of the American character. Of course, any man staring insolently at another man is liable to be called to account. Strangers and foreigners are most frequently the victims when they show certain peculiarities in their appearance and manners.

Examples of this offensive staring can be seen every day from the Battery to The Bronx and further up; but I have never observed anything like it in Europe. There is, certainly; as much curiosity and staring on the other side as there is here, but the staring is almost always sympathetic or friendly and very often respectful, which two qualities are lacking in the American stare.

In my opinion, women are the worst offenders, although I have seen men leering at women in a nasty way that made them wince and made me ashamed of my own sex. The character of a stare depends always on the expression of the face, and men are mere clumsy schoolboys in the expressiveness of their features when compared with women. Think of the infinite varieties of smiles a clever woman has at her command. She can look at a man with a certain penetrating, dancing glitter in her eyes and a slightly amused sarcastic expression of her lips, which will make the most self-confident man imagine that he has some ridiculous defects about him. I saw the other day in an open car a refined young woman literally forcing a man out of his seat by steadily looking at him. If was a peculiar, quiet, persuasive, magnetic stare and had nothing in common with the glare of some shopping women who seem to consider everybody as a personal enemy who occupies a seat or place of vantage.

Women often stare in couples. After the stare they

day Sun, but really to watch the havee which the fair disturbers spread over the neighborhood. As a penman cannot do his best when somebody is bending over him and looking on, so every man seemed to lose his easy control of limbs and arms and face as he passed under the fire of those four observant, fascinating eyes. Not a single peculiarity of dreas, figure, face and gait seemed to escape them, and the humfliating verdict was plainly expressed in a significant glance and a slight meaning smille. Of more than fifty men that passed in review, every one was more or less visibly affected by the starers. The women carried it off much better. Even the servant girls stared back defantly, while others tossed their heads and contracted their noses in a most expressive way. At last there came by two well dressed young gentlamen who not only returned in a persentlemen who not only returned in a per-fectly free and easy manner the scrutiniz-ing glances of the women, but examined them from head to foot with the greatest un-concern. I drew a long, deep, happy breath. Our sex was vindicated at last. D. S. Our sex was vindicated New York, August 13.

# THE FLEA PLAGUE.

Permaldehyde Fumes Recommended for Hariem Sufferer.

is up against a problem that puts your carpet puzzlea two seats behind the hindmost seat. I know, be-cause I have been there, with both feet, both hands and all the rest of the anatomy. It is my belief that the fica bites with the one purpose of revenge. revenge against a calumny that had its birth long before St. Patrick drove the gnakes over and off the cliff. Who ever heard of s fee except to hear that he was Irish and that he e when you put your finger on him? Base out When you put your finger on him

e's two! he's two!

However, there is one exterminator that I know about; there may be others, but this one is sure, its only drawback being in its correct application. The medium is formaldehyde gas, and in my case I arranged with the disinfecting corps of the local Board of Health to release the gas in the infested

premises.

I had tried sulphur, bug powder, bisulphate and many other recommended "stuits." all to no apparent good. But two fumigations with the formaldehyde gas made on successive Saturdays did the trick, and this in face of the fact that the premises had been unoccupied for many months, so that there were really millions of the pests to be exterminated.

Let "Distressed" arrange for the applications to be made by some one who knows how to use the NEWARE, August 13.

Sure Cure Guarante To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A sure cure for fleas: Stick a pin in them. FLEA DOCTOR. NEW YORK, August 12.

Searulle Attack a Man. From the Newcastle Chronicle.

From the Newcastle Chronicle.

A Danish aslior has had a narrow escape from meeting death from a flock of seaguils. His ship, the Figurdia, from Cronstadt to Copenhagen, was within fifty miles of her destination when he was washed overboard by a heavy sea. He was a powerful swimmer, and divesting himself of his clothing prepared to make a stout battle for life. We seeker, however, had the man set death of the contract of the seeker. clothing prepared to make a stout battle for life. So scober, however, had the man got clear of his garments than a great flock of seaguils gathered around and began a flores attack upon the intruder into their quiet domain, whom they pecked at re-morsely with their beaks. For six hours the man contrived to keep himself affost, warding off his persecutors as best he could, one or two ships passing without noticing him. When at last a Russian steamer, the Elies, took him on board his strength was utterly exhausted. trength was utterly exhausted.

In Darkest States Island. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Ser: We don't know what to do at night: It's really getting quite absurd, We do not get a bit of light!

For all the power—it isn't sight!
To troller cars has been transfer
We don't know what to do at night! They say this island's "out of sight" It is in one sense of the w

Although this is a pleasant site, It won't at present be preferred, We don't know what to do at night! Yes, we can "spark"—(that's wit)-But even though that has occurred, We do not get a bit of light!

We're in a most unpleasant plight, As very well may be injerred, We don't know what to do at night, We do not get a bit of light LA TOUGHR E.

WORKING FOR THE CITY. How Municipal Ownership Hases the Lot

of the Employee. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Yesterday it was my sad privilege to view from the window of a friend's house in Brooklyn that delightful example of municipal owner-ship known as "Sunset Park," which, by the cipal ownershipers for the sum of \$150,000 and within two years generously converted into a municipal domain for the modest sum of \$600,000. But that is only a historical incident, though it is evidence that municipal

ery for it. From my friend's window I was obliged for a couple of hours to heed the movemen and service of two latter day beneficiaries of municipal ownership, who, armed with soythes, were charged with the arduous duty of levelling a small patch of weeds which had escaped attention since the lush days of spring. For two days these practical theorists had nursed that job, and had actually evelled a patch about the size of a New York parlor. Three short swings of the scythe were the maximum number, interrupted by periods of discussion of the merits and pleasures of municipal employment. Evidently the job will amply suffice for the whole of the

pending month.

How I did long for a moving (7) pictur to portray to a hopeful and expectant world that peaceful haven of municipal ownership and employment which we all so ardently crave. As an example of simple, unstrenuous life this would surely win the banner.

Do not rashly conclude that these peaceful municipal servants are loafers. Far from it; they duly passed the civil service examinaand are protected employees, whom you may vainly seek to dislodge. should you embrace the hopeful theory that this is only a sporadic and unusual example of municipal ownership and employment, ering upon a waiting community. As far removed as is The Bronx from quiescent Brooklyn, there I have seen municipal servants, supposed to be mending the highways under Commissioner Haffen the Good, extended on the grass by the score beneath a spreading elm tree, strenuously earning their spreading elm tree, strenuously earning their daily municipal stipend; their consciousness of the merit of the service being amply attested by the scouts posted at each end of the block to sound the warning to get busy whenever the deputy's vehicle was seen in the distance from one or the other of the

block corners.

I confess to a furtive leaning toward more municipal service: but when I look back ever twenty-three years of residence in New York and recall a continuing procession of such municipal servants as the foregoing, I re-press my Yearnings and yield a sigh for the unattainable. Does it not really seem that the first thing for the friends of an enlarged municipal service is the solution of the prob-lems: How to prevent shirkers from usurping the place of workers, and how to prevent the deterioration of workers into shirkers

fully, it becomes: How to prevent the atrophy of the American spirit of hustle in the brain and muscle of the man who gets a soft snap at the public crib, with no power on the part of his collective employer to bounce him for failure to render value for the money of fellow citizens who are held up by the

Let us propound another question: After all the industries are municipalized or nationalized, and all the busy workers still outside the pale shall have been duly conrerted into unproductive eye servants of the character above depicted, whence is all the money to come from to pay the unearned wages of this army of happy municipal employees? Who will remain to do the actual work of society? Shall the women and children take the places of real workers, or shall we increasingly import laborers from all the rest of the world, and supply each municipal lord with a few foreign born helpers to do

I might summon sufficient courage to atack the problem of the carpet for the diagonal room, but not for this one. It's back to the land of manana for mine, where those with a taste for loafing do not foist themselves or the municipal payrolls. Heigho, the craft

Awash with graft Haste, hobo, tramp and grafter, T'ell the strenuous crafter: The elue and club for such as hel

GEORGE W. DITHRIDGE.

MERE MAN'S FAREWELL. No Time to Write While Woman Ousts Him

# From Work.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: On my return from a little vacation I observe that my fem another characteristic talking to. I would dentally remark that I repaired to the rural discasant, healthy work on a fruit farm; good pay." As I was somewhat in need of health and change ingly "short" ever since the "business women commenced wedging themselves into my business
—I thought I would accept the tempting inducement. The liberal hours and high feed were, howtoo much for me, and I decided as a che evils to return to my former diet of beef and, crullers and sinkers, and my old occupation of

skirmishing around for a job. I have a faint hope of getting something like a permanent position, as the busy season in my line is about to commence; but I confess that the hope s only a faint one. I fear it will be the same old story, as fast as I get decently settled in a position story, as fast as I get decently settled in a position some alluring damsel or unsqueichable widow with a sweet, "everlasting voice," as Ben Jonson says, will come along and talk the manager into firing me and installing her im my place. What do you think of that method of doing business by "gentie, symwoman"? It's precisely your "busines

woman's style, all the same.

But I can't waste any more time in refuting the superficial arguments of these feminine interlopers
If we were to discuss this matter till doemsday is
would not alter the plain facts in the case one lota Women are usurping men's positions simply and solely to get rid of domestic duties, and simultamonial prospects. If they possessed the wit of an unhatched funale rosling they could see that the more men they displace the more hopeless must

So long, dear ladies! (Emphasis on the "dear.") So long, dear ladies: (Empussion at occar.)
Hope you'll have as good a time capturing "hubbles" by your brilliantly idiotic scheme as I have had in hunting and holding jobs, likewise by the grace of your wonderful "business" grajus.
NEW YORK, August 13.
MERR MAN. NEW YORK, August 13.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: What has become of Gien Island and the Gien Island boats? I have asked several persons, but none of them seems to know positively. One thought the United States Government had bought or seized the Island, another thought Starin had sold out all his interests to various people, another guessed this and another that, and no real information was had. Hence my inquiry of you. WALTER M. MARKERT. inquiry of you.

NEW YORK, August 13.

Mr. Starin closed the resort for good two years ago. He still owns the island.

lestinctive Pietr of the Irish Gool.

From the Spectator.

As Dr. Douglas Hyde points out, "the Irish Gael
is plous by nature, there is not an Irishman in &
hundred in whom is the making of an unbellever. God is for him assured, true, intelligible, When he meets a neighbor, instead of saying 'Bon Jour' or 'Good morning,' he says, 'God salute pou.'? ed, all the ordinary invocations and saluta religious ferling. "When he takes snuff from you he will say: "The blessing of God he with the souls of your dead.' If a sudden wonderment surprise him, he will cry: 'A thousand laudations to God,' and if he be shown a young child or anything else for the first time he will say: 'Prosperity from God

> Art of Campaigning. The time has come around again.
> When every voter must be "shown,"
> And every candidate must kies ed every candidate my The baby and the blar

THE STORY OF SVEABORG. Description of the Heisingfors Fortress and Its Past Experiences.

From the London Globe. It is a most charming voyage on board one of the clean, smart, Swedish steamers that run between St. Petersburg and Stockholm and call at Heisingfors from the spring until the ice comes again in the autumn. the Vassily Ostroff just-below the Nicolas Bridge across the Neva at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the frowning grante forts of Cronstadt, with the woods of Peterhof and Oranienbaum on the opposite mainland, are passed two hours later. At 7 o'clock the excellent "sexa," or evening meal, is served in the usual Swedish ample way, and then, should the season be that near the summer should the season be that near the simmer solsting, one can sit over coffee on deck and watch the long day close with just a short break of a few minutes and pass into the short night and out again into the dawn of

another day.

In the fresh morning air Heisingfors is reached at 7 o'clock. As the steamer enters the broad expanse of landlocked water, at the end of which lies Helsingfore, the traveller notices away on his left the granite ramler notices away on his left the granite ram-parts of Sveaborg, the guardian fortress of Heisingfors, and usually styled "the Gibral-tar of the North," while on his right and crowning the summit of the hill which sep-erates the open water of the south harbor from the inner, or east harbor, acars aloft the gorgeous, flamboyant cathedral of the Greek Church, built in recent years, and whose topmost cross is, as the Russian officials will tell you with manifest giee, some inches higher than the cross on the dome of the Lutheran cathedral of St. Nicholas, stand-

and whose topmost cross is, as the Russian officials will tell you with manifest giee, some inches higher than the cross on the deme of the Lutheran cathedral of St. Nicholas, standing on a hill in the centre of the town.

It was my good fortune to pass a summer there in one of the villas in the Brunnsparken, Right opposite my house, at a distance of about two miles, was the fortress of Sweaborg. The name is compounded of "borg," a fortress, and "Swea," meaning of the Swedes. The name bespeaks the origin of the place which commands the narrow Gustaf Sound, the only channel with water deep eaough for large vessels arriving from the outer waters. The fortfloations are built out of the solid granite rock: they extend over six rocky islands—Langorn, Lilla Swarto, Wester Swarto, Oster Swarto, Vargon and Gustafsvard, and all of thems, except Langorn, are connected by bridges.

Vargon is the citadel, owing to its central position, and on that island Count Ehrenswerd. Field Marshal of Sweden, built the first fortress, between 1747 and 1738. Count Ehrenswerd lies buried in the open space before the commandant's house; the monument erected over his grave bears the inscription: "On this spot and surrounded by his own work repose the remains of the Count August Ehrenswerd. To him Sweden oved also its first gunboat flotflia, which was organized in 1760. By 1770 Sweden had established Sweaborg as a naval harbor and fortress. In 1808 the Russians succeded in sweden's history. Admiral Count Cronsted, an officer of tested course, was in command of the Swedish garrison of 206 officers and 7,386 non-commissioned officers and 7,386 non-commissioned officers and 7,386 non-commissioned officers and 7,586 non-commissioned officers and 7,586 non-commissioned officers and 7,586 non-commissioned officers and results of Sweaborg. The allied field was a standard of the Bussians. The case had a parallel in the surrender of Metz by Marshal Bazains.

On June 18, 1855, the British and French fleets, fifty-one sail, with 3,291 guns, met in Bar

FIRE WALKING.

A Strengeus Form of Worship and Devil

Driving in India. From the Madras Diocesan Magasta A large trench is dug in front of the shrine, about thirty or forty feet long and ten feet broad and two or three feet deep. During the morning this is filled with logs of wood and fagots, which are is filed with logs of wood and lagous, which are set on fire and by the evening become a mass of glowing, redhot embers. After dark the people assemble with torches and tom-toms and musted and then some thirty or forty people prepare to walk lengthwise over the embers. They are worked up to a great state of excitement by the tom-to and shouts of the crowd, and then the whole thirty or forty walk over barefooted, quite slowly and or forty walk ever barefooted, quite slowly and deliberately, in single file, headed by one of the

pujarie." This custom of fire walking is quite common in Malabar. Keoriche, three miles from Tellichery, in the direction of the French settlement of a famous "pujart" by the name of Occasita dwein.

He actually sits on a heap of fire at an annual featival, but is said to be protected by the bark of the areca nut, which is known to be a bed conductor of heat. At the viliage of Putinam, thirty-two miles from Tellichery in the Kaval Taluq, North Malabar, a weird essembly is performed annually, at midnight, in connection with the worship of the village delty, when the "pujari," who goes by the name of Chamandy, throws himself incessantly on a heap of fire, about six feet high and fiftee feet bload, until he is able to knock every fago down and level the whole hoap with the ground One end of a rope is fastened to his arms, while the other end is seized by two Malayali low cast men, who pull the "pulari" away each time he rushes on the heap of fire. Two women at the same time, with brooms bring the fagots together same time, with brooms bring the lagous together as they are knocked down by the "pujari" and endeavor to restore the heap of fire as it is being dismantled by him. The wood is the "puum," a hard jungle wood of the Malabar forests. When the whole heap is levelled with the ground the "pulari" brings this ceremony to a close.

Khasa Prabhu, a pepper merchant of Tellichers the died a few years and whole when we have the pularity of the common of the

Khasa Prabhu, a pepper merobant of Tellich-ery, who died a few years age, and whose memory is still green, had a great name here for ouring people who were possessed of the devil, and was a great fire eater to boot. He believed he was often summoned to the 6rt Lakshuil Narasimha, temple by the delty of this shrine to cum people troubled with the devil. Here he was wont to in-carcerate many devils that were troubling the people of Tellichery, and every loose stone one notices in the temple precincts represents one such devil driven out of the human body and im-prisoned by him. These stones are grantic slabs.

wall or tree. In the temples of Malabar there are several det In the temples of Mainter there are several devices, but the number must never exceed thirty-nine in each. At Audajoor village, three and a haif miles from Telliebery, one of the village delities, Davatha Issuran by fiame, committed atroscious sins and the other detties pulled out his tongue, and Angarakaram and Bappuran, two warrior delties, drove out the other detties from the tempte. allowing only any number less than forty to dwel in any one shrine. From this date Angarakaran in any one shrine. From this date Angarakaran, the warrior, carries a long sword, while Bappuran bears a sword and a shield as well, and they are the principle defties worshipped during the coremony of fire walking. Some of the minor defties are Muthupendaivyam Khandhakarnan and Kuttichathan, but all such are not propitiated excepting Vassurymara, the smallpox god: Chamandy, who puts devils into human bodies, and Illi and Makal—the mother and her two children of the Jungles—who smile people with Jungle faver.

How to Carry a Revolver.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: There is an account in this morning's SUN of a policeman being shot by a bullet from his own revolver which fell from his pocket while he was chasing a couple of

thic ves.

This is not the first time by any means that such
an accident has happened to one of the members
of our pelice force, and seems to go to show that
it is not unusual for them to carry revolvers with every chamber loaded.

My training has been that such a procedure wa most foolbardy, and that the only gafe way was to leave one chamber of the revolver empty and lower the hammer down over that chamber.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 12. NATIONAL GUARD. Buttermilk Charles.

JEROME FOR GOVERNOR.

From the Globe.

Encouraging evidence of vitality in the real Democratic party is afforded by the growing demand that Mr. Jerome shall bear its standard in the coming State campaign. Of the sincerity and spontaneity of the call there is no doubt, and it comes from so many parts as to evince a widespread eagerness

to save the party from the ignominy that threatens at Buffalo.

The impulse springs obedient to the first law of nature—self-preservation. Complete domination of the convention by Hearst would amount to capture by him of what would amount to capture by him of what we have a complete of the organization and liberty. remains of the organization and liberty to use it for his own purposes in 1908. Scarcely less disastrous would be an attempt to exclude him by means of a weak kneed, color-less candidate without hold upon the people. With Mr. Jerome at the head the whole situa-tion would take on a new aspect. His cam-paigns in this county have demonstrated the power of his appeal to the voters. His candidacy, even in a three cornered fish, would be no empty form. It would furnish the Democrats the best possible antidote to the Democrats the best possible at the poison that is sapping their strength, while at the same time attracting many independents who look upon party affiliations as boss riveted manacles.

To the Republicans also Mr. Jerome's candidacy would be a spur to supreme effort. Against a crusader of such character they would not have the face to name any but a strong man, whatever their estimate of the chances. With a man like our District Attorney talking from every stump in the State as he talked in the two campaigns he won, even the Republican nominee, running against a divided opposition, would need to be a man of worth and action.

> An Independent Leader. From the Evening Post.

Evidence is daily piling up that Democrate are turning their eyes to Jerome as the sort of candidate for Governor their party needs.

It is a true instinct which makes them feel
that the crisis calls for a leader of strong
personality and of vitalizing independence Mighty Satisfactory.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: When THE SUN breaks forth into double leads and stentorian tones to the effect that "if Mr. Jerome runs for Governor Mr. Jerome will be elected" the prophecy ought to strike consternation to the hearts of the political flounderers known as the Republican and Democratic organizations of New York State, TEE SUM has thrilling moments, and this is one of them. Still, we are wondering if it soberly and honestly believes that Mr. Jerome would make

actisfactory Governor.

Jerome is a vigorous bunch of humanity, strenuosity let loose, as it were, and one cannot but admire him for his hatred of graft and shams and the effective manner in which he goes after law break the effective manner in which he goes after law break-ers and evildoers generally. He is an ideal District Attorney all right, and he has personal character-istics which appeal to the independent voter; but one who is independent and still nurtures a spark of conservatism along with his independence can hardly "go" Jerome for Governor. If he would take on a few things and leave off a few things, the sum total adding to his dignity and subtract-ing from his erratic behavior, without injuring his sturdy honesty and open fearicesness, he would sturdy honesty and open fearicesness, he would grow into nighty desirable Gubernatorial timber. With the whole State before them to pick from the independents can do better, at present.

PHILADELPHIA. N. Y., August 12. W.T. S. Yes, sir. We believe it, unreservedly, His erratic behavior has been wholly con-fined to the newspapers, and he possesses made it impossible for any man like him to get the nomination for Governor, so that the people could have a chance to say whether

What Say You to This?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: "His-gins in the Field." Sure. He has been grubbing in season and out. The dwarfs and time servers that hang on his heels would not let him drop his hoe if he would. They have deterred him from moving to oust Odell and they and he are eager to bend the knee and beg his consent to a renomination.

Such a spectacle! No man can foretell what the future has in store for the party, but if Higgins is nominated he will less

Greater New York by not less than 200,000.
Odell asserted in the public prints that High gins was an ingrate and had no backbone Now the Higgins parasites crawl on the hands and knees to Odell and ask for mercy. He would reappoint Boyd as Superintendent

Public Works if Odell would ask it. He was catapulted into the Saratoga gambling rumpus in a feeble effort to offset the shame of the Bender decision. That was a

He has a feeble intellect and a previncial training, and is doing petty things with a view of impressing the public with the notice that he has courage. If he were let alone how much better he would track, but he is paced by a lot of time servers who are draw ing a higher compensation from the State treasury than their mean capacities warrant.

Higgins to suit their own whims.

His Saratoga action was a mean drive st a political opponent, and the cabinet of dwarfs thought it would glorify Higgins. It gives him neither present praise nor a hale

Let us have for Governor a man of intellect and courage, who will put the boot to the touts and parasites and fakers. Let us have TRE SUN's platform; No humbus, no hypocrisy. Let us cease heaping impor on the feeble. Let us have a Governor that will bulk larger than all the bosses.

Hughes would fill the bill. So would Stranahan. So would Bruce, if he were not all cotch. Brackett has more bowels and more brains than any one that is seeking the job, and would make a cracking good Governor. He would be Governor and party leader, and no one would dispute either title with him. There would be no stealing, and the knaves would have short shrift. He knows the law nd would conserve property interests. ARBANY, August 13.

A Trojan Riddle. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir! Where

does Governor Higgins get off?
TROY, August 13. M. B. Loye. Montenegro to Have a Parliament.

From the London Globe Prince Nicholas of Montenegro has just promul-gated the decree under which the grand old race of fighting mountaineers will shortly to through, for the first time in their history, the experience of electing a parliament. The election takes place on September 27, and the deputies will be elected on September 27, and the deputies will be elected for four years. Every captainey, as the district are suggestively named, will return a member, at will each of the six towns of the principality. Every adult male of 21 is a voter, and every man of 30 paying about 13 shillings a year in taxe it eligible. The following have also seats, ex-office. The Orthodax Metropolitan the Bowner Cabelle The Orthodox Metropolitan, the Roman Catholic Primate, the Moslem Chief Mufti and members of the Privy Council of the High Court, of the Court nts, and three Generals of Brigade, pennated by the Ministry.

American School Children. From the North American Berief.

Education for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903, there were in the United States at that time 22,655,001 chir dren between the ages of Sand 18, of whom 18,18,88, were enrolled in public or private schools or coleges, or in special institutions of a more of less ducational character. Thus, during the parks mentioned, more than 22 per cent. of our cuts supple were at school or college, and their educest for that one year \$251,457,625, or \$3.15 per of population. To-day our educations Capita of population. To-day our edwarings system is even larger, and the expense of maintain-ing it greater still.

Ah! But Such a Lovely Face!

From the Kansas City Journal The consent of Congress to save Speaker Car-non's face by so modifying the omnibus bill as it leave the question to the votors of Arizona and New Mexico separately was simply a waste of him-dreds of thousands of dollars that will be expended ng the elections. The face saving was not

Weary William. Shakespeare was advocating the inheritance

"I am to sick of being the common beritage of